

Prospective Member Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q. What is Rotary?

A. Rotary is a worldwide network of over 1.4 million neighbors, friends, and leaders who volunteer their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs. There are more than 34,000 Rotary Clubs in well over 200 countries throughout the world. Clubs meet weekly or bi-weekly for fellowship, a meal, and an informative program. Clubs identify opportunities for service projects in their communities and throughout the world, often partnering with other clubs to plan and execute them.

Rotary's motto is *Service Above Self*, and Rotarians pursue Five Areas of Service: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service and Next Generations (Rotary Youth Exchange and Youth Leadership) Service. Belonging to a Rotary Club is a great way to make new friends while doing good in the world and your community. It provides a wonderful platform for service minded individuals to marry their energy and ideas for service with like-minded people, community resources, and the support to make their ideas a reality.

Q. What about Rotary in Marquette?

A. There are three Rotary clubs in Marquette, as well as a satellite of one of the Rotary Club's, all of which are affiliated with Rotary International. Members of any rotary club are welcome to attend meetings of other clubs, and the Marquette clubs often collaborate on service and grant projects and assist as volunteers at each other's Major Fundraisers. The Marquette Club's meeting days/dates, times, and locations are as follows:

The Rotary Club of Marquette meets weekly on Mondays at noon at the Holiday Inn.

Marquette Rotary West Club meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month at noon at Donckers

Marquette Breakfast Rotary Club meets weekly on Thursdays at 7am at Donckers Restaurant.

Marquette Breakfast's After-Hours Satellite Rotary Club meets at 5:30 pm the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month (location varies; follow them on Facebook for location announcements).

Q. Who can join the Rotary?

A. Membership is open to service minded individuals who live or work in the Marquette area or have another connection to our community and are interested in making new friends while doing good in the world. Members include local business owners, service providers, educators, community and non-profit leaders, volunteers and others interested in making our community and the world a better place.

Q. What are the obligations of membership?

A. Members are encouraged to regularly attend weekly meetings and to actively participate in a variety of the club's service, social, and fundraising activities (as their time and circumstances permit). There is no strict attendance requirement; it's understood most people have busy schedules and many demands upon their time. New members infuse clubs with energy, ideas, and enthusiasm! There are a variety of ways for new members to get involved. One way is to suggest a few great speakers to be presenters at club meetings. Another another is to stay informed of Rotary club happenings and share them on

Facebook; follow your club's page and those of our Rotary District and the other local Rotary Clubs. By far, the best way for new members to start getting involved is to attend weekly or bi-weekly club meetings as often as possible; by doing so they'll get to know many of the club's members and will learn a great deal about our local community and upcoming events from speakers, members, and announcements. Members will find their club experience greatly enriched through participation in their club's occasional hands-on community service opportunities. Not only are they rewarding to do, but they can also be a lot of fun, especially when there are enough people participating to accomplish them quickly and efficiently. Again, there is no strict attendance or participation requirement for hands-on service projects. And finally, financially supporting the club's projects can also be a great way to be involved and to experience the gratification that comes from seeing the difference our combined efforts and contributions make in our community and in our world. Everyone has their own particular passions and talents, so no two Rotarians participate in exactly the same way. Just bear in mind that Rotary Clubs are *service* clubs whose members value service above self, and therefore expect all club members to serve the club and its efforts on behalf of our community in some way.

Q. What does it cost to be a member?

A. Costs vary by club. For The Rotary Club of Marquette, they are as follows:

Quarterly Dues \$72 (Combined Club, Rotary District, & Rotary International)

Weekly lunch meals \$16/each (includes gratuity)

Christmas luncheon meal \$21/each (includes gratuity)

Annual Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) recommended donation \$100 to the Rotary International Foundation's Annual Fund-SHARE; may be invoiced \$100 annually w/ January dues, or \$25 ea. quarter.

Members are invoiced quarterly (in July, April, October, & January) for their dues and the meals they've eaten at club meetings the previous quarter. Note: The Rotary year is from July 1 through June 30 so the 1st quarter is July-September, the 2nd quarter is October through December, the 3rd quarter is January through April and the 4th is April through June. Members are encouraged to financially support both their Rotary club's and Rotary International's charitable works as their personal financial circumstances permit. Rotary International's *Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY)* fundraising initiative highly encourages Rotarians worldwide to donate at least \$100 annually to The Rotary International Foundation's Annual Fund-SHARE. Donations to the Annual Fund -SHARE are the singular worldwide funding source for both Rotary International's Global matching grants and for each Rotary District's District matching grants for Rotarian sponsored/supported international and local projects/programs that meet the criteria of one of Rotary's seven areas of focus: fighting disease, providing clean water, supporting education, growing local economies, saving mothers and children, promoting peace, and supporting the environment. A Rotary club may qualify to receive Global and District matching grant funds for its sponsored projects/programs ONLY if its annual per capita member donations into the Rotary International Annual Fund-SHARE meets or exceeds the required minimum of \$100 per member. Each member's annual donation(s) to the Rotary International Foundation Annual Fund-SHARE are credited towards their club's annual per capita donation calculation.

Q. What are the club's service and charitable projects?

A. Our service projects and charitable contributions change over time, as new members bring new ideas to the club and as needs within the community are identified. The Rotary Club of Marquette raises money through:

- Pints and Pennies for Polio for Polio eradication during National Polio Awareness month (October)
- Rotary Golf Outing the first Thursday in June

- Other events as opportunities arise.

The Rotary Club of Marquette provides monetary support of worthy community causes. Club members also volunteer their time for the good of the community. A short list of our support over the past several years includes:

- The YMCA of Marquette County
- The Women's Center
- Graveret Elementary School and Library (our adopted school)
- Bay Cliff Health Camp
- Habitat for Humanity
- Honor Flight
- Middle school and high school robotics teams
- JJ Packs – backpacks of food for children of food insecure households for weekends & holidays
- Feeding America Food Distributions
- Presque Isle Bog Walk
- Special Olympics
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- STEM programming for girls through AAUW
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- National Association of Mental Illness – Marquette/Alger Chapter
- Peter White Public Library family reading program
- Teaching Family Homes ropes course
- The 906 Adventure Team
- Scholarships for graduating seniors for post-secondary academic or vocational studies
- And many more

In support of International peace and understanding, the Rotary Club of Marquette supports:

- Rotary Youth Exchange – both inbound and outbound students
- A project in Guatemala that helps families learn and sustain health, safety, family farming, and business.
- The Marquette Sister Cities
- And more

Q. How do I apply for membership?

A. We invite you to come meet us and learn more about our club by attending one of our weekly lunch meetings as our guest. We meet at the Holiday Inn at noon on Mondays (excluding holidays). If you enjoy the meeting, value service above self and would like to become a member, we ask that you complete and submit our electronic membership application:

<http://ismyrotaryclub.org/NewMember/?AccountID=6620&ClubID=2650> Your sponsor or our membership committee chair may provide the link to the electronic membership application to you via text or email, or you may access it yourself via our club's website: www.rotaryclubofmarquette.com.

Once you have submitted your application, it will be reviewed by both our club's membership committee and our board of directors. The club's members will then be provided a seven-day period to review and comment on your application. After the comment period concludes, your membership may be finalized. Either your sponsor or a representative of the club's membership committee will contact you to notify you whether your application for membership has been approved. If approved, they will

also invite you to your first “official” weekly club lunch meeting, at which you will be officially inducted as a member of our club.

We hope you’ll join us!